

As Introduced

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

2017-2018

H. B. No. 786

Representative Antani

A BILL

To amend sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of the
Revised Code to enhance the penalties for
failing to stop for a school bus that is picking
up or dropping of school children, to require
the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to create a
graphic that instructs drivers to stop for such
a school bus, to require a deputy registrar to
post the graphic at the deputy registrar's
location, and to make an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of the
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4503.03. (A) (1) (a) Except as provided in division (B)
of this section, the registrar of motor vehicles may designate
one or more of the following persons to act as a deputy
registrar in each county:

(i) The county auditor in any county, subject to division
(A) (1) (b) (i) of this section;

(ii) The clerk of a court of common pleas in any county,
subject to division (A) (1) (b) (ii) of this section;

(iii) An individual; 20

(iv) A nonprofit corporation as defined in division (C) of 21
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 22

(b) (i) If the population of a county is forty thousand or 23
less according to the most recent federal decennial census and 24
if the county auditor is designated by the registrar as a deputy 25
registrar, no other person need be designated in the county to 26
act as a deputy registrar. 27

(ii) The registrar may designate a clerk of a court of 28
common pleas as a deputy registrar if the population of the 29
county is forty thousand or less according to the last federal 30
census. In a county with a population greater than forty 31
thousand but not more than fifty thousand according to the last 32
federal census, the clerk of a court of common pleas is eligible 33
to act as a deputy registrar and may participate in the 34
competitive selection process for the award of a deputy 35
registrar contract by applying in the same manner as any other 36
person. All fees collected and retained by a clerk for 37
conducting deputy registrar services shall be paid into the 38
county treasury to the credit of the certificate of title 39
administration fund created under section 325.33 of the Revised 40
Code. 41

Notwithstanding the county population restrictions in 42
division (A) (1) (b) of this section, if no person applies to act 43
under contract as a deputy registrar in a county and the county 44
auditor is not designated as a deputy registrar, the registrar 45
may ask the clerk of a court of common pleas to serve as the 46
deputy registrar for that county. 47

(c) As part of the selection process in awarding a deputy 48

registrar contract, the registrar shall consider the customer 49
service performance record of any person previously awarded a 50
deputy registrar contract pursuant to division (A) (1) of this 51
section. 52

(2) Deputy registrars shall accept applications for the 53
annual license tax for any vehicle not taxed under section 54
4503.63 of the Revised Code and shall assign distinctive numbers 55
in the same manner as the registrar. Such deputies shall be 56
located in such locations in the county as the registrar sees 57
fit. There shall be at least one deputy registrar in each 58
county. 59

Deputy registrar contracts are subject to the provisions 60
of division (B) of section 125.081 of the Revised Code. 61

(B) (1) The registrar shall not designate any person to act 62
as a deputy registrar under division (A) (1) of this section if 63
the person or, where applicable, the person's spouse or a member 64
of the person's immediate family has made, within the current 65
calendar year or any one of the previous three calendar years, 66
one or more contributions totaling in excess of one hundred 67
dollars to any person or entity included in division (A) (2) of 68
section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. As used in this division, 69
"immediate family" has the same meaning as in division (D) of 70
section 102.01 of the Revised Code, and "entity" includes any 71
political party and any "continuing association" as defined in 72
division (C) (4) of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or 73
"political action committee" as defined in division (C) (8) of 74
that section that is primarily associated with that political 75
party. For purposes of this division, contributions to any 76
continuing association or any political action committee that is 77
primarily associated with a political party shall be aggregated 78

with contributions to that political party. 79

The contribution limitations contained in this division do 80
not apply to any county auditor or clerk of a court of common 81
pleas. A county auditor or clerk of a court of common pleas is 82
not required to file the disclosure statement or pay the filing 83
fee required under section 4503.033 of the Revised Code. The 84
limitations of this division also do not apply to a deputy 85
registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar 86
contract, is elected to an office of a political subdivision. 87

(2) The registrar shall not designate either of the 88
following to act as a deputy registrar: 89

(a) Any elected public official other than a county 90
auditor or, as authorized by division (A) (1) (b) of this section, 91
a clerk of a court of common pleas, acting in an official 92
capacity, except that, the registrar shall continue and may 93
renew a contract with any deputy registrar who, subsequent to 94
being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to an 95
office of a political subdivision; 96

(b) Any person holding a current, valid contract to 97
conduct motor vehicle inspections under section 3704.14 of the 98
Revised Code. 99

(3) As used in division (B) of this section, "political 100
subdivision" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 of the 101
Revised Code. 102

(C) (1) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this 103
section, deputy registrars are independent contractors and 104
neither they nor their employees are employees of this state, 105
except that nothing in this section shall affect the status of 106
county auditors or clerks of courts of common pleas as public 107

officials, nor the status of their employees as employees of any 108
of the counties of this state, which are political subdivisions 109
of this state. Each deputy registrar shall be responsible for 110
the payment of all unemployment compensation premiums, all 111
workers' compensation premiums, social security contributions, 112
and any and all taxes for which the deputy registrar is legally 113
responsible. Each deputy registrar shall comply with all 114
applicable federal, state, and local laws requiring the 115
withholding of income taxes or other taxes from the compensation 116
of the deputy registrar's employees. Each deputy registrar shall 117
maintain during the entire term of the deputy registrar's 118
contract a policy of business liability insurance satisfactory 119
to the registrar and shall hold the department of public safety, 120
the director of public safety, the bureau of motor vehicles, and 121
the registrar harmless upon any and all claims for damages 122
arising out of the operation of the deputy registrar agency. 123

(2) For purposes of Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code, 124
determinations concerning the employment of deputy registrars 125
and their employees shall be made under Chapter 4141. of the 126
Revised Code. 127

(D) (1) With the approval of the director, the registrar 128
shall adopt rules governing deputy registrars. The rules shall 129
do all of the following: 130

(a) Establish requirements governing the terms of the 131
contract between the registrar and each deputy registrar and the 132
services to be performed; 133

(b) Establish requirements governing the amount of bond to 134
be given as provided in this section; 135

(c) Establish requirements governing the size and location 136

of the deputy's office; 137

(d) Establish requirements governing the leasing of 138
equipment necessary to conduct the vision screenings required 139
under section 4507.12 of the Revised Code and training in the 140
use of the equipment; 141

(e) Encourage every deputy registrar to inform the public 142
of the location of the deputy registrar's office and hours of 143
operation by means of public service announcements; 144

(f) Allow any deputy registrar to advertise in regard to 145
the operation of the deputy registrar's office, including 146
allowing nonprofit corporations operating as a deputy registrar 147
to advertise that a specified amount of proceeds collected by 148
the nonprofit corporation are directed to a specified charitable 149
organization or philanthropic cause; 150

(g) Specify the hours the deputy's office is to be open to 151
the public and require as a minimum that one deputy's office in 152
each county be open to the public for at least four hours each 153
weekend, provided that if only one deputy's office is located 154
within the boundary of the county seat, that office is the 155
office that shall be open for the four-hour period each weekend; 156

(h) Specify that every deputy registrar, upon request, 157
provide any person with information about the location and 158
office hours of all deputy registrars in the county; 159

(i) Allow a deputy registrar contract to be awarded to a 160
nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of this state; 161

(j) Except as provided in division (D) (2) of this section, 162
prohibit any deputy registrar from operating more than one 163
deputy registrar's office at any time; 164

(k) For the duration of any deputy registrar contract, 165
require that the deputy registrar occupy a primary residence in 166
a location that is within a one-hour commute time from the 167
deputy registrar's office or offices. The rules shall require 168
the registrar to determine commute time by using multiple 169
established internet-based mapping services. 170

(l) Establish procedures for a deputy registrar to request 171
the authority to collect reinstatement fees under sections 172
4507.1612, 4507.45, 4509.101, 4509.81, 4510.10, 4510.22, 173
4510.72, and 4511.191 of the Revised Code and to transmit the 174
reinstatement fees and two dollars of the service fee collected 175
under those sections. The registrar shall ensure that at least 176
one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment 177
and is able to accept reinstatement fees. The registrar shall 178
deposit the service fees received from a deputy registrar under 179
those sections into the public safety - highway purposes fund 180
created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code and shall use the 181
money for deputy registrar equipment necessary in connection 182
with accepting reinstatement fees. 183

(m) Establish standards for a deputy registrar, when the 184
deputy registrar is not a county auditor or a clerk of a court 185
of common pleas, to sell advertising rights to third party 186
businesses to be placed in the deputy registrar's office; 187

(n) Allow any deputy registrar that is not a county 188
auditor or a clerk of a court of common pleas to operate a 189
vending machine; 190

(o) Specify that each deputy registrar location shall 191
display at all times, in a prominent place on the premises, a 192
printed card that has a graphic that instructs drivers to stop 193
and yield to a stopped school bus when it is either loading or 194

unloading passengers. 195

The registrar shall create and issue the graphic for 196
distribution to and display at each deputy registrar location. 197

(p) Establish such other requirements as the registrar and 198
director consider necessary to provide a high level of service. 199

(2) Notwithstanding division (D)(1)(j) of this section, 200
the rules may allow both of the following: 201

(a) The registrar to award a contract to a deputy 202
registrar to operate more than one deputy registrar's office if 203
determined by the registrar to be practical; 204

(b) A nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of 205
providing automobile-related services to its members or the 206
public and that provides such services from more than one 207
location in this state to operate a deputy registrar office at 208
any location. 209

(3) As a daily adjustment, the bureau of motor vehicles 210
shall credit to a deputy registrar the amount established under 211
section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for each damaged license 212
plate or validation sticker the deputy registrar replaces as a 213
service to a member of the public. 214

(4) (a) With the prior approval of the registrar, each 215
deputy registrar may conduct at the location of the deputy 216
registrar's office any business that is consistent with the 217
functions of a deputy registrar and that is not specifically 218
mandated or authorized by this or another chapter of the Revised 219
Code or by implementing rules of the registrar. 220

(b) In accordance with guidelines the director of public 221
safety shall establish, a deputy registrar may operate or 222

contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy 223
registrar location if products of the vending machine are 224
consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar. 225

(c) A deputy registrar may enter into an agreement with 226
the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure commission pursuant to 227
division (A)(11) of section 5537.04 of the Revised Code for the 228
purpose of allowing the general public to acquire from the 229
deputy registrar the electronic toll collection devices that are 230
used under the multi-jurisdiction electronic toll collection 231
agreement between the Ohio turnpike and infrastructure 232
commission and any other entities or agencies that participate 233
in such an agreement. The approval of the registrar is not 234
necessary if a deputy registrar engages in this activity. 235

(5) As used in this section and in section 4507.01 of the 236
Revised Code, "nonprofit corporation" has the same meaning as in 237
section 1702.01 of the Revised Code. 238

(E)(1) Unless otherwise terminated and except for interim 239
contracts lasting not longer than one year, contracts with 240
deputy registrars shall be entered into through a competitive 241
selection process and shall be limited in duration as follows: 242

(a) For contracts entered into between July 1, 1996 and 243
June 29, 2014, for a period of not less than two years, but not 244
more than three years; 245

(b) For contracts entered into on or after June 29, 2014, 246
for a period of five years, unless the registrar determines that 247
a shorter contract term is appropriate for a particular deputy 248
registrar. 249

(2) All contracts with deputy registrars shall expire on 250
the last Saturday of June in the year of their expiration. Prior 251

to the expiration of any deputy registrar contract, the 252
registrar, with the approval of the director, may award a one- 253
year contract extension to any deputy registrar who has provided 254
exemplary service based upon objective performance evaluations. 255

(3) (a) The auditor of state may examine the accounts, 256
reports, systems, and other data of each deputy registrar at 257
least every two years. The registrar, with the approval of the 258
director, shall immediately remove a deputy who violates any 259
provision of the Revised Code related to the duties as a deputy, 260
any rule adopted by the registrar, or a term of the deputy's 261
contract with the registrar. The registrar also may remove a 262
deputy who, in the opinion of the registrar, has engaged in any 263
conduct that is either unbecoming to one representing this state 264
or is inconsistent with the efficient operation of the deputy's 265
office. 266

(b) If the registrar, with the approval of the director, 267
determines that there is good cause to believe that a deputy 268
registrar or a person proposing for a deputy registrar contract 269
has engaged in any conduct that would require the denial or 270
termination of the deputy registrar contract, the registrar may 271
require the production of books, records, and papers as the 272
registrar determines are necessary, and may take the depositions 273
of witnesses residing within or outside the state in the same 274
manner as is prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in 275
civil actions in the court of common pleas, and for that purpose 276
the registrar may issue a subpoena for any witness or a subpoena 277
duces tecum to compel the production of any books, records, or 278
papers, directed to the sheriff of the county where the witness 279
resides or is found. Such a subpoena shall be served and 280
returned in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case is 281
served and returned. The fees of the sheriff shall be the same 282

as that allowed in the court of common pleas in criminal cases. 283
Witnesses shall be paid the fees and mileage provided for under 284
section 119.094 of the Revised Code. The fees and mileage shall 285
be paid from the fund in the state treasury for the use of the 286
agency in the same manner as other expenses of the agency are 287
paid. 288

In any case of disobedience or neglect of any subpoena 289
served on any person or the refusal of any witness to testify to 290
any matter regarding which the witness lawfully may be 291
interrogated, the court of common pleas of any county where the 292
disobedience, neglect, or refusal occurs or any judge of that 293
court, on application by the registrar, shall compel obedience 294
by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in the case of 295
disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from that 296
court, or a refusal to testify in that court. 297

(4) Nothing in division (E) of this section shall be 298
construed to require a hearing of any nature prior to the 299
termination of any deputy registrar contract by the registrar, 300
with the approval of the director, for cause. 301

(F) Except as provided in section 2743.03 of the Revised 302
Code, no court, other than the court of common pleas of Franklin 303
county, has jurisdiction of any action against the department of 304
public safety, the director, the bureau, or the registrar to 305
restrain the exercise of any power or authority, or to entertain 306
any action for declaratory judgment, in the selection and 307
appointment of, or contracting with, deputy registrars. Neither 308
the department, the director, the bureau, nor the registrar is 309
liable in any action at law for damages sustained by any person 310
because of any acts of the department, the director, the bureau, 311
or the registrar, or of any employee of the department or 312

bureau, in the performance of official duties in the selection 313
and appointment of, and contracting with, deputy registrars. 314

(G) The registrar shall assign to each deputy registrar a 315
series of numbers sufficient to supply the demand at all times 316
in the area the deputy registrar serves, and the registrar shall 317
keep a record in the registrar's office of the numbers within 318
the series assigned. Each deputy shall be required to give bond 319
in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars, or in 320
such higher amount as the registrar determines necessary, based 321
on a uniform schedule of bond amounts established by the 322
registrar and determined by the volume of registrations handled 323
by the deputy. The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the 324
registrar. The bonds required of deputy registrars, in the 325
discretion of the registrar, may be individual or schedule bonds 326
or may be included in any blanket bond coverage carried by the 327
department. 328

(H) Each deputy registrar shall keep a file of each 329
application received by the deputy and shall register that motor 330
vehicle with the name and address of its owner. 331

(I) Upon request, a deputy registrar shall make the 332
physical inspection of a motor vehicle and issue the physical 333
inspection certificate required in section 4505.061 of the 334
Revised Code. 335

(J) Each deputy registrar shall file a report semiannually 336
with the registrar of motor vehicles listing the number of 337
applicants for licenses the deputy has served, the number of 338
voter registration applications the deputy has completed and 339
transmitted to the board of elections, and the number of voter 340
registration applications declined. 341

Sec. 4511.75. (A) The driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or 342
trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from either 343
direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or 344
discharging any school child, person attending programs offered 345
by community boards of mental health and county boards of 346
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 347
by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten feet from the 348
front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until such 349
school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus 350
driver to proceed. 351

It is no defense to a charge under this division that the 352
school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an 353
automatically extended stop warning sign as required by division 354
(B) of this section. 355

(B) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red 356
visual signals meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of 357
the Revised Code, and an automatically extended stop warning 358
sign of a type approved by the state board of education, which 359
shall be actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only 360
whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the 361
purpose of receiving or discharging school children, persons 362
attending programs offered by community boards of mental health 363
and county boards of developmental disabilities, or children 364
attending programs offered by head start agencies. A school bus 365
driver shall not actuate the visual signals or the stop warning 366
sign in designated school bus loading areas where the bus is 367
entirely off the roadway or at school buildings when children or 368
persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental 369
health and county boards of developmental disabilities are 370
loading or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children 371
attending programs offered by head start agencies are loading or 372

unloading at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign 373
shall be synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule 374
of the board. 375

(C) Where a highway has been divided into four or more 376
traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless 377
trolley need not stop for a school bus approaching from the 378
opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of 379
receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending 380
programs offered by community boards of mental health and county 381
boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending 382
programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any 383
vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley overtaking the school 384
bus shall comply with division (A) of this section. 385

(D) School buses operating on divided highways or on 386
highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and 387
discharge all school children, persons attending programs 388
offered by community boards of mental health and county boards 389
of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs 390
offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the 391
highway. 392

(E) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus 393
until after any child, person attending programs offered by 394
community boards of mental health and county boards of 395
developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered 396
by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has 397
reached a place of safety on the child's or person's residence 398
side of the road. 399

(F) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section may 400
be fined an amount not to exceed ~~five hundred~~ one thousand 401
dollars. A person who is issued a citation for a violation of 402

division (A) of this section is not permitted to enter a written 403
plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the 404
citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the 405
proper court to answer the charge. 406

(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty 407
provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender 408
who violates this section a class ~~seven~~six suspension of the 409
offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, 410
temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or 411
nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in 412
division (A) ~~(7)~~(6) of section 4510.02 of the Revised Code. When 413
a license is suspended under this section, the court or mayor 414
shall cause the offender to deliver the license to the court, 415
and the court or clerk of the court immediately shall forward 416
the license to the registrar of motor vehicles, together with 417
notice of the court's action. 418

(G) As used in this section: 419

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in section 420
3301.32 of the Revised Code. 421

(2) "School bus," as used in relation to children who 422
attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus 423
that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped 424
with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type 425
approved by the state board of education, is painted the color 426
and displays the markings described in section 4511.77 of the 427
Revised Code, and is equipped with amber and red visual signals 428
meeting the requirements of section 4511.771 of the Revised 429
Code, irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more 430
children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van 431
owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its 432

color, lights, or markings. 433

Section 2. That existing sections 4503.03 and 4511.75 of 434
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 435

Section 3. All items in this section are hereby 436
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 437
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 438
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 439
for fiscal year 2018 and those in the second column are for 440
fiscal year 2019. The appropriations made in this act are in 441
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2018-FY 442
2019 biennium. 443

DPS Department of Public Safety 444

General Revenue Fund 445

GRF 768433	School Bus Camera Grants	\$0	\$1,000,000	446
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TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$0	\$1,000,000	447
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TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$0	\$1,000,000	448
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SCHOOL BUS CAMERA GRANTS 449

The foregoing appropriation item 768433, School Bus Camera 450
Grants, shall be used to award grants to city, local, and 451
exempted village school districts and community schools 452
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that are 453
responsible for providing transportation to students enrolled in 454
the school pursuant to section 3314.091 of the Revised Code to 455
purchase and install external cameras on buses to record images 456
of the license plates on cars that drive by the bus while it is 457
stopped and loading or unloading children. 458

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 459

Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 460
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 461
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 462
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 463
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 464
as though made in Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General 465
Assembly. 466

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 467
provisions of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly 468
that are generally applicable to such appropriations. 469